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NEWS NOTES

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slowdown in the growth in demand for electricity. These factors have caused the cancellation of 87 plants in the U.S. since 1975. "Unless fortunes shift quickly, the pipeline of new plants will begin to run dry in all but a few countries by the end of the decade."

The report added, "Cost overruns have been most severe in the U.S., West Germany and Britain, but cost increases above inflation have been near universal even in such 'model' nuclear countries as France and Japan." "Figures for the past decade show that the amount of concrete, piping and cable used in an average nuclear plant has more than doubled and that labor requirements have more than tripled." The economics of nuclear power worsen over time in most countries, the study said, and "many are posed to repeat the disappointing experience of the U.S." "The question now is not whether to make a few small adjustments to further encourage a thriving industry, but whether to introduce fundamental institutional changes and new economic subsidies to prop up a dying business."

In 1970 it was predicted that the U.S., Western Europe, and Japan would have 600,000 megawatts produced by nuclear power by 1985. Now the prediction is less than 200,000. The study also noted that "nowhere is nuclear power economical compared to investment in improved energy efficiency." Electricity from new nuclear plants now costs 10-12 cents a kilowatt-hour and will reach 14-16 cents by 1990, while the cost of a kilowatt-hour generated by burning coal would be roughly half that amount in both years. The study, costing $2, is available from:

WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

5. EAST TIMORESE CHURCH LEADER FLEES AS MILITARY RENEWS ONSLAUGHT

"When the Indonesians invaded (East Timor in 1975) it was the start of a period of massacres, torture, capturing people, arresting any suspect in the middle of the night."

These are the words of Msgr. Martinho da Costa Lopez, who resigned from his post in May 1983 as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Dili, the only Catholic jurisdiction in East Timor. He left his post after he received various death threats and began visiting foreign countries to speak out against the injustices in his homeland.

East Timor was a Portuguese colony and was in the process of becoming independent at the time of the Indonesian invasion in December 1975. Several months later, Indonesia annexed East Timor as its 27th province. Indonesia has claimed East Timor since gaining independence in 1949 from the Netherlands. At the time, the Asian island of Timor was divided in half between the Netherlands and Portugal. Portugal retained possession of East Timor, while West Timor became part of Indonesia. East Timorese regard themselves as culturally and ethnically separate from the Indonesians. Almost half of the 650,000 East Timorese are Catholic, which is in stark contrast to Indonesia, where 85% of the population is Muslim.

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Amnesty International stated in a September 1983 report that it found a secret military torture manual and that the Indonesian military has systematically tortured and summarily executed many prisoners in East Timor since 1975. Also since 1975, a devastating famine, combined with Indonesian military operations, has resulted in over 100,000 - 200,000 East Timor deaths. A guerrilla group, Fretilin, is fighting 20,000 heavily-armed Indonesian forces. Msgr. da Costa Lopez says that Fretilin has strong support among the East Timorese and stated that "Indonesian efforts at annexation have failed completely," and that "the people of East Timor simply refuse to be integrated." "We must do everything to help them," he said in an interview distributed by the United Nations on December 1, 1983.

A cease-fire agreed to last March has failed to take root and the "Indonesian military have launched a new, big offensive....I am very afraid for the fate of the civilian population, the defenseless people, women and children, the old and the sick," stated Msgr. da Costa Lopez. On August 16, 1983, Indonesia's armed forces Commander, General Benny Murdani, asserted that he would "crush" the Fretilin and that there would be "no mercy" since he could not allow "this united country to be split apart."

The December 7, 1975 Indonesian invasion took place just hours after former President Gerald Ford left that country, admitting he knew of the plan. The U.S. supplied 90% of the arms used in the attack, which included OV-10 Bronco aircraft for incendiary bombing of civilians and crops. On December 15, 1983, a bipartisan group of 105 U.S. Congresspersons, led by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), wrote to President Reagan who had planned to visit Indonesia. The letter pointed out the massive violation of human rights by the Indonesian army and asked the President to encourage the Indonesian government to return to peaceful dialogue with the East Timorese, and to allow the Red Cross unrestricted access to the suffering. Reagan has not yet responded to this letter, and since the U.S. government has not expressed its concern about these human rights abuses, many U.S. Representatives believe the Indonesian government receives tacit approval of its violent policy.

Letters to U.S. Secretary of State, George Shultz, are requested, asking him to respond to Rep. Hall's et al December 15 letter. (address on last page). For further information on this matter, contact:

The Honorable Tony Hall
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-6465